

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 1999

## THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL IMAGING AND ENGINEERING ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 1999

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in the effort to improve the return on our medical research dollars by becoming a cosponsor of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Engineering Establishment (NIBIEE) Act, which we are introducing today.

This legislation would fill a critical void at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by creating an independent institute to support basic research in medical imaging and bioengineering. These disciplines, which have made unmatched contributions to the improvement of medical care in the past two decades, have no research home in the current NIH structure. In fact, some of the leading imaging modalities such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) were conceived in the United States but developed primarily overseas, at least in part because there was no structure at the federal level to support the basic research. Our bill would create a research environment in which new imaging and bioengineering technologies, techniques, and devices can be developed for clinical use much more rapidly than under the present system.

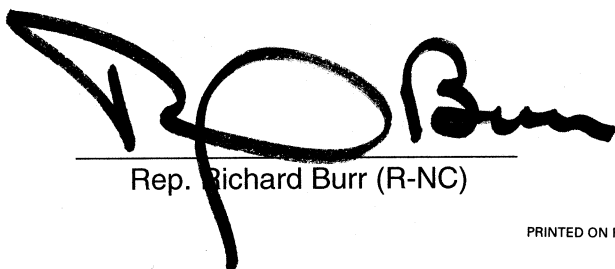
**Our legislation replaces disorganization with efficiency, effective management, accountability, and an improved scientific focus. The bill does not authorize new spending but instead makes maximum use of existing NIH resources.**

Dramatic advances in imaging and bioengineering have revolutionized medical practice in recent years. However, the next generation of breakthroughs may be jeopardized if we do not modernize the structure at NIH. Moreover, the continuation of rapid progress in genetics and molecular biology depends in part on the development of advanced imaging techniques that will enable researchers to study biological processes in living bodies rather than in test tubes.

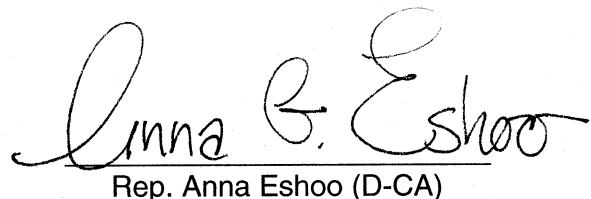
In the last Congress, 80 bipartisan House Members cosponsored the Burr bill to create an imaging institute, while others cosponsored the Gutknecht-Eshoo bill to establish a bioengineering center. The legislation that we are introducing today combines these two fields in a single institute with a focus that would cut across the boundaries of the existing disease and organ system institutes.

We hope you will join us in support of improved detection, diagnosis, and treatment of disease for all Americans. A partial list of organizations that support the NIBIEE Act is printed on the reverse side. To cosponsor the NIBIEE Act or for more information, please contact either of us or our staff members: Jenny Hansen (Burr; 225-2071) or Stacey Rumpy (Eshoo; 225-8104).

Sincerely,



Rep. Richard Burr (R-NC)



Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)

**ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING  
THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BIOMEDICAL IMAGING AND ENGINEERING**

Academy of Radiology Research  
American Association for Women Radiologists  
American Association of Physicists in Medicine  
American College of Radiology  
American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering  
American Osteopathic College of Radiology  
American Roentgen Ray Society  
American Society of Emergency Radiology  
American Society of Head and Neck Radiology  
American Society of Neuroradiology  
American Society of Radiologic Technologists  
Association of Educators in Radiological Sciences, Inc.  
Association of Program Directors in Radiology  
Association of University Radiologists  
International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
Radiological Society of North America  
Society for the Advancement of Women's Imaging  
Society of Breast Imaging  
Society of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology  
Society of Chairmen of Academic Radiology Departments  
Society of Computed Body Tomography and Magnetic Resonance  
Society of Gastrointestinal Radiologists  
Society for Health Services Research in Radiology  
Society of Nuclear Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Radiology  
Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound  
Society of Thoracic Radiology  
Society of Uroradiology